



US 12

Sauk City to Middleton

(Wisconsin River bridge)

Construction report

Transportation District 1
May 2002
Volume 1, Number 2

In this issue

Map
Contact information
Project overview
Construction staging
Enhancements
Environmental protection

Contact information

If you have any questions or concerns about this project, leave a message on the US 12 construction line at 608 246-3806.

Messages will be checked regularly and a WisDOT project team member will get back to you.

Supervisor

Jay Neider
WisDOT, District One
2101 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704-2583
Phone: 608.245.2631



Project overview

A major part of the US 12 project is happening at its west end in Sauk City where a new 900-foot long, 7-span bridge is being built over the Wisconsin River. The new 2-lane bridge will be added on the north side of the existing bridge and will be its westbound shadow with 6 new piers next to the existing piers. The deck on the old 2-lane bridge will be replaced and it will become the new eastbound roadway. There will be bicycle paths on both sides of the finished 4-lane bridge and a sidewalk on the south side.

The 0.4-mile project extends from John Adams Street in Sauk City to about 550 feet east of the river. The portion of US 12 from John Adams Street to the bridge including the Water Street intersection, will be reconstructed to improve traffic flow, safety and turning room. On the east end, the river crossing will join the new 4-lane highway segment that will be completed between the river and Springfield hill.



A newsletter published by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to keep citizens informed.

Construction staging

Because of its massive size, building the new westbound bridge and re-decking the existing bridge will be done in stages from 2002 through 2004.

- During the 2002 construction season, the piers and abutments for the new westbound bridge will be completed.
- In 2003, the bridge girders will be placed and the new bridge deck poured. Work will also begin on the west bridge approach including the Water Street intersection. Traffic will use the existing bridge most of the time, but will be detoured for a short time when the existing bridge is being used as a construction platform to expedite pouring the new bridge deck.
- In 2004, traffic will be switched to the new bridge and the deck on the old bridge will be replaced. At the end of the 2004 construction season, the eastbound and westbound lanes across the river will be open to traffic and all roadway approach work between John Adams Street and the bridge will be finished.

Enhancements

Sauk City's river border is part of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway plan for protecting the river's scenic, environmental and public use qualities. The US 12 bridge is the gateway to Sauk City's historic downtown characterized by German, Swiss and Norwegian architecture dating from the 1800s. The west end of the bridge is an important visual center for the community. Several features to enhance this setting have been incorporated in the bridge project.

- There will be stone pillars at each corner of the bridge, decorative open railing resembling an old-style wrought iron fence, and several lamp posts with period luminaries on each side of the bridge.
- Both corners of the bridge in Sauk City will have a park setting that includes a variety of native shrubs, small trees, and perennial plant groupings arranged to provide contrasting colors, textures, and seasonal blooms. The north corner will also feature a terrace, walking path and benches.
- Stairs in the south corner leading to the bicycle and walking path under the bridge will have stone facing and decorative railing like that on the bridge. The bridge abutments will also have a decorative stone finish.

Environmental protection

The Wisconsin River at Sauk City provides habitat for the Higgins eye mussel (clam), an endangered species. The river and its shoreline also provide feeding, roosting, and nesting habitat for the Bald Eagle, a threatened species. Measures to protect these species and fishery resources include the following:

- Investigation is underway to find out if Higgins eye mussels are present within the footprint of the new bridge piers. By early May 2002, divers will hand pick and identify species in areas that will be disturbed. If the Higgins eye is among the catch, these will be moved to another suitable location.
- To minimize disturbance to Bald Eagle mating and nesting activities, work on the bridge will be suspended from mid-November through mid-March of each construction year.
- No in-stream construction will take place from early January through early May of each construction year to protect game fish spawning. In addition, extensive temporary and permanent erosion control measures will be used to protect water quality.



Transportation District One
2101 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704-2583